



Science & Technology

and equipment and plans to establish a Centre for the Creation of Biotechnology Companies.

Eriochem: focus on research and development

Eriochem, another R&D leader, is involved in synthesising active pharmaceutical ingredients, manufacturing pharmaceutical products, and developing added-value generics or “supergenerics”. As Antonio Bouzada, CEO, explains, “Our R&D department, the lifeblood of our organisation, consists of an efficient team of dedicated research scientists and doctors who use innovation and creativity to continuously work on new products and processes.” Eriochem is well known for its sustained-release pharmaceutical products based on biodegradable polymers and for the innovative high-tech processes it employs for the production of micro-spheres.

Eriochem has two pharmaceutical plants and one API synthesis plant, which have been approved by FDA, EMEA, TGA, MERCOSUR (Brazil, Argentina), South-Africa and Korea among other health authorities worldwide, and manufactures its own raw materials and essential ingredients, i.e. Oxaliplatin and Melphalan among others, including growing the plant needed for its highly successful Vinorelbine. In all its processes, Eriochem employs state-of-the-art technology.

Eriochem has obtained Marketing Authorisations or is in process of obtaining them in 63 countries worldwide.

Eriochem has positioned itself as a reliable and innovative partner for international companies. It already partners with Sandoz (Novartis), Kalbe Pharmaceuticals, Hospira, Teva and Mylan, among others. Eriochem has patented the innovative processes it uses in manufacturing many



Eriochem S.A.



Open Pool Australian Light-Water Reactor built by INVAP

of its leading products, including Lectrum®, the first generic of Leuprolide Acetate Depot in the world.

CERELA: award-winning innovation which benefits society

The Centre of Reference for Lactobacilli (CERELA-CONICET), launched in 1976 to research lactic-acid bacteria (LAB), has received a number of prizes for innovation, including three prestigious INNOVAR awards from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. Graciela Font de Valdez, Director, explains that the INNOVAR award last year was for developing a way for the bio-conservation of baked goods. The bio-preservative, based on selected lactic acid cultures, allows reducing chemical additives and a longer shelf life of bakeries. “From a health and economic standpoint, this new process is very important,” she says proudly.

CERELA’s focus on lactic-acid bacteria means that it has in-depth expertise concerning the production of a number of food products which are very beneficial to the health. “We have a culture collection of 1,200 strains, which is unique in Latin America. Some specimens are from ecological pockets that are now extinct and which have particular functional properties for industrial applications,” Graciela Font de Valdez explains.

In addition to its research and development activities, CERELA is involved in training; partnering with national and international universities and research institutes; and taking research to the production stage.

Benefiting society is a priority for CERELA. Graciela Font de Valdez says proudly, “We developed a probiotic yoghurt and made it available to populations at risk, mainly disadvantaged children. The results were fantastic. If children consume this social probiotic, they have fewer and milder intestinal and respiratory infection events